

May 16, 2004

TRAVEL ADVISORY; D-Day's 60th Is for Presidents and Pfc.'s  
By CORINNE LaBALME

France and its World War II allies will celebrate the 60th anniversary of the Normandy landings this spring and summer. The occasion may be the last major D-Day tribute that many aging veterans will attend, and the roster of events is extensive.

The official D-Day ceremonies in Normandy from June 5 to 7 will include President Bush, President Jacques Chirac, Queen Elizabeth II and Chancellor Gerhard Schröder, the first German official to attend a major D-Day memorial in France. Band concerts, cemetery memorials, air shows, tours, museum exhibits, hot-air balloon flights, parades and fireworks are planned for dozens of sites, including small villages.

At Hémévez, for example, seven American paratroopers who died there are being honored with a stele and a historic walking path. On Omaha Beach, a series of monumental sculptures by the French artist Anilore Banon, "The Braves," will be installed along the shoreline, honoring the troops.

Many events are designed as tributes to surviving resistance workers and veterans. From June 4 to Aug. 30, the Musée des Beaux-Arts in St.-Lô is presenting the work of three American artists -- Joe Downing, John Franklin Koenig and John Levee -- who came ashore in Normandy in 1944. The D-Day Jazz Festival at the Théâtre d'Hérouville-St.-Clair offers a special homage on June 6 to the American singer Jon Hendricks, a D-Day veteran.

Student programs -- a performance of Gabriel Fauré's Requiem on June 5 in St.-Laurent-sur-Mer by an international children's choir, meetings for veterans and local schoolchildren -- are aimed at promoting awareness of the Battle of Normandy among youth.

Since space is limited and security badges are required for events attended by heads of state, the French government is advising would-be visitors to watch the official ceremonies on television or on outdoor movie screens installed in many towns. (All World War II veterans who served in Normandy are invited to get special passes; information on registration -- and housing with local families -- is available in English at [www.normandiememoire.com](http://www.normandiememoire.com).)

Allied troops did not land in Provence until Aug. 15, 1944. The beach town of St.-Tropez will commemorate the date with a morning memorial service, and an after-dark show of music and fireworks at the town's 16th-century citadel. Official ceremonies will also be held at the beaches near St.-Raphaël.

Paris, liberated on Aug. 25, is also planning government ceremonies. Details will be available at [www.liberation60.gouv.fr](http://www.liberation60.gouv.fr) or from tourist offices.

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